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THE CONDOR

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Western Ornithology

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

According to AVIFAUNA No. 11, California has 541 species and subspecies of birds. It may be of interest to compare this figure with those for other states. Myron H. Swenk (in *Nebraska Blue Book*, 1915, page 835) has assembled the following data. There is as yet no report for Texas, but that state probably follows California as a close second. Nebraska comes third with 418 species (Swenk, 1915); then, west of the Mississippi, Colorado with 397 (Cooke, 1911), Kansas with 379 (Bunker, 1913), Missouri with 383 (Widmann, 1907), Iowa with 354 (R. M. Anderson, 1907), and Arkansas with 255 (A. H. Howell, 1911). East of the Mississippi the largest list seems to be that of New York with 411 (Eaton, 1910-14), while Maine has 327 (Knight, 1908), Connecticut 329 (Sage and Bishop, 1913), West Virginia 246 (Brooke, 1913), Michigan 326 (W. B. Barrows, 1912), Illinois and Wisconsin, combined, 398 (Cory, 1909), and Alabama 275 (Oberholser, 1909). Westwardly, Washington has 372 species (Dawson and

Bowles, 1909) and Arizona 362 (Swarth, 1914).

Mr. W. C. Bradbury, a retired capitalist of Denver, has been devoting most of his time the past three years to assembling a collection of birds' eggs for the Colorado Museum of Natural History, of which institution he is a trustee. His efforts have resulted in a representation of some 600 different species, with many fine series, occupying twenty-eight large show-cases. As can be readily inferred new things are now coming in very slowly.

William Alanson Bryan, Professor in the College of Hawaii, has just gotten out a book entitled "Natural History of Hawaii." Of the five "sections," one is devoted to the animal life of the archipelago, and of this section a consideration of its remarkable bird-life naturally occupies the larger part. Mr. Bryan is, of course, especially well equipped to handle this part of his subject with authority and in entertaining style.

We have to record the sad news of the death of Gaylord K. Snyder, active member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, who passed away at his home in Los Angeles, August 28, 1915. Mr. Snyder was a young man of most pleasing personality, a frequent attendant at Southern Division meetings, where his presence will be greatly missed, and an occasional contributor to *THE CONDOR*. In his untimely death the Club has sustained a distinct loss.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

LITTLE BIRD BLUE | By WILLIAM L. and IRENE FINLEY | with illustrations by | R. Bruce Horsfall | and from photographs | [vignette] | Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin Company | The Riverside Press Cambridge | 1915 | ; pp. 1-60. (\$0.75 net.)

The offering of the above title is a charming little volume which may be read aloud to the children as a bedtime story; and then around the circle it must go for each little auditor to look long and lovingly at little Bird Blue perched on Phoebe Katherine's head or William's careful fingers,—and suddenly we realize that it is long past the children's bedtime!

The story deals with three months in the life of a bluebird, from the time he was found orphaned and nearly dead in the nest box under the eaves until he answered the call of his race one autumn day.

The recital of Bird Blue's rearing interests the children greatly and brings to them many bits of wisdom regarding birds and bird conservation; while the photographs reproduced in the book are a perfect delight to child-lovers and bird-lovers alike. The drawings are for the most part good. However, we refuse to accept the "sharp-fanged creature" on page 12 as a prowling cat! It